



Northern Rockies Coordination Group West Central Montana Area

For More Information Contact:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

All of West-Central Montana to Enter Stage II Fire Restrictions

Missoula, Mont.—Stage II fire restrictions will go into effect for the remaining areas of the West-Central Montana area, first thing on Thursday, July 26, announced fire management officials. Stage II fire restrictions apply to campfires, smoking, daytime industrial operations and motorized vehicle use.

Under Stage II fire restrictions, the following acts are prohibited until further notice:

- Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire or campfire
- Smoking unless within an enclosed vehicle, building, or in an area 3 feet in diameter, that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials
- Operating motorized vehicles off designated roads or trails
- The following acts are prohibited from 1:00 pm to 1:00 am (“hoot-owl”):
 - Operating any internal combustion engine
 - Welding, or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame
 - Using an explosive

A patrol is required for 2 hours following cessation of all the above activities.

These restrictions apply to any lands outside of designated city limits, regardless of ownership. The restrictions will remain in effect until there is a significant long-term change in fire danger.

The West Central Montana area includes: Mineral, Missoula, Powell (excluding the Helena National Forest), Ravalli, Granite, Anaconda-Deer Lodge, Butte-Silver Bow, a portion of Sanders County outside the Kootenai National Forest, and those portions of Flathead and Lake Counties lying within the Flathead Indian Reservation. These restrictions also apply to forested lands administered by the Lolo National Forest (Bob Marshall Wilderness remains in Stage I), Bitterroot National Forest, portions of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest within the West-Central Montana Fire Restrictions Area, Bureau of Land Management, Montana DNRC Southwestern Land Office, Montana DNRC Northwestern Land Office (Plains Unit), Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes & Flathead Agency, Region 2 of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), and the US Fish & Wildlife Service (National Bison Range and Lee Metcalf Wildlife Refuge).

For more information regarding wildland fire safety, campfires, and fire restrictions on Montana’s forested lands in West Central Montana, please contact your local DNRC, Forest Service, Tribal, fire department, law enforcement, or FWP office. Check the restrictions website at

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